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2 By Supervisor Rice

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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5 Creating a Redistricting Commission to be responsible for the independent drafting
6 of Supervisory Districts following the 2010 United States Census.

7
8 WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute 59.10 mandates that Milwaukee County
9 must establish new supervisory districts following the release of decennial
10 population census data, the next of which is scheduled to occur in 2010; and

11 WHEREAS, the redistricting process in Milwaukee County last took place in
12 2003 when the County Board approved a resolution reducing the size of the
13 board from twenty-five to nineteen members and redrew electoral district
14 boundaries; and

15 WHEREAS, the statutory guidelines frame a timeline for the completion of
16 redistricting, and direct that the new Supervisory districts be substantially equal in
17 population, consist of contiguous whole wards, and adhere to municipal
18 boundaries where possible; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory guidelines, according to "The Shape
20 of Representative Democracy", a report of the 2005 Redistricting Reform
21 Conference, any redistricting plan should:

- 22 1. Adhere to the United States Constitution and Voting
23 Rights Act
24 2. Promote competitiveness and partisan fairness
25 3. Respect political subdivisions and communities of interest
26 4. Encourage geographical compactness

27 ; and

28 WHEREAS, the current process by which redistricting takes place in
29 Milwaukee County – essentially having the legislative branch perform the
30 redistricting – has the potential to become overly politicized and serve the interest
31 of the elected rather than the electorate; and

32 WHEREAS, in order to remove political influence from the redistricting
33 process and prevent deliberately moderating electoral districts to create advantage,
34 it is essential that Milwaukee County entrust the duty of re-drawing electoral
35 districts to an independent commission; and

36 WHEREAS, the model for an independent commission has been
37 implemented in a growing number of state and local jurisdictions, resulting in a

38 much less contentious redistricting process, but the model still allows for
39 substantial input from elected officials and still requires Board and County
40 Executive approval for the redistricting plan; and

41 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Redistricting Commission as proposed
42 herein will be composed of five members nominated by the members of the
43 Milwaukee County Ethics Board, subject to approval of the County Board and the
44 County Executive; and

45 WHEREAS, all members of the Redistricting Commission must be of voting
46 age, reside in Milwaukee County and not hold any elected office or have
47 registered party affiliations; and

48 WHEREAS, the procedures set forth below provide the transparency and
49 opportunity for public input necessary to assure fairness in the redistricting
50 process; now therefore,

51 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, for the
52 reasons above, hereby creates the Milwaukee County Redistricting Commission,
53 which shall be composed of five members nominated by the Milwaukee County
54 Ethics Board, subject to confirmation of the County Board and County Executive,
55 with support provided by County Board staff; and

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that eligibility for service on the Redistricting
57 Commission is limited to residents of Milwaukee County of legal voting age who
58 hold no elected office nor have any political party affiliation; and

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Redistricting Commission shall
60 substantially follow these procedural guidelines when developing a redistricting
61 plan:

- 62 1. The Commission shall convene prior to March 15, 2011 for
63 orientation and a briefing on the legal requirements for
64 redistricting;
- 65 2. Upon receipt of US Census data, the Commission shall develop a
66 draft redistricting plan in accordance with the timeline mandated
67 by state law;
- 68 3. The Commission shall hold at least one public hearing at which the
69 draft redistricting plan will be presented;
- 70 4. The Commission shall solicit comments and suggestions from all
71 municipalities incorporated within Milwaukee County;

72 5. The Commission shall revise its draft plan in accordance with the
73 input of the public hearing and the municipalities and submit the
74 plan to the Office of Corporation Counsel to ensure compliance
75 with all applicable state and federal laws;

76 6. The Commission shall submit a final redistricting plan to the
77 County Board within 60 days of receipt of US Census data, or as
78 otherwise require by state law;

79 and

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the procedure for adoption of the
81 redistricting plan shall be as follows:

82 1. The redistricting plan prepared by the Commission shall be referred to
83 the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services, which shall
84 forward its recommendation to the full County Board;

85 2. The County Board may approve or amend the redistricting plan only
86 upon a vote of two-thirds of the members-elect;

87 3. In the event the redistricting plan fails of adoption, or is vetoed and
88 sustained, the redistricting plan is returned to the Commission with a
89 communication detailing the objections of the County Board and/or
90 the County Executive;

91 4. The Commission shall revise the plan based on the cited objections
92 and re-submit the revised plan to the County Board no later than the
93 next regularly scheduled meeting of the County Board;

94 5. In the event the second plan fails of adoption, or is vetoed and
95 sustained, the charge of redistricting shall be referred to the Office of
96 Corporation Counsel to draft a substitute redistricting plan under
97 Wisconsin Statute 59.10(6);

98 and,

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the redistricting plan developed by the
100 Milwaukee County Redistricting Commission shall be in full compliance with all
101 applicable state and federal laws.

102 rice.redistricting commission

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